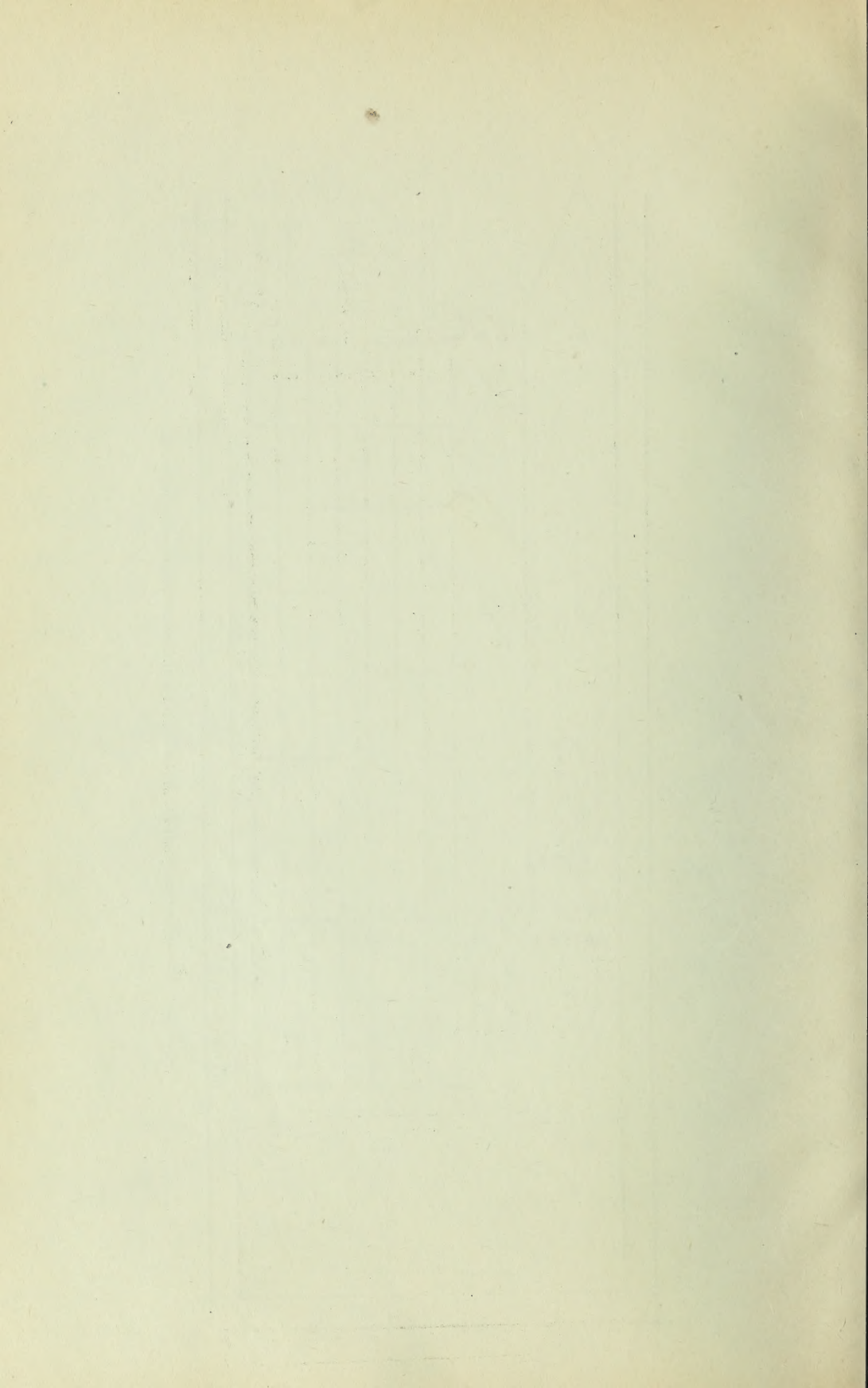


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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

OFFICE OF THE

DAIRY AND COLD STORAGE COMMISSIONER.

NOTES ON COW TESTING.

One of the good signs of the times is the marked increase of interest being taken in cow testing, selection on the basis of dairy **PROFIT** records. With a simple record of the production of each cow and her cost of feed, there is no valid reason why any dairy farmer should harbour the type of cow that is reluctant to pay her way; with systematic records the dairyman is in a position to build up a selected herd in which each individual pays a good profit above the cost of feed.

To increase the profit per cow means to increase the interest of farm life; it will help to keep the boy on the farm, it will provide additional home comforts and conveniences for wife and family.

Selection is necessary because in almost every herd where no testing has been undertaken, both the yield per cow and the cost of **MILK** the product are found to vary far beyond reasonable limits. In the same herd it is common to find differences between mature cows of over 1,500 pounds of milk and 50 pounds of fat, and both milk and fat costing twice as much per pound to produce from some cows as from their stable mates.

Individual records alone can give this indispensable information. Weigh the milk regularly, it only takes a few minutes per month.

Set a high standard. If your present herd average is about 4,000 pounds of milk, aim for at least another two thousand pounds per cow. When that is attained by each cow, be ambitious to raise it again.

Unless you take samples of the separate cows can you tell for certain whether the milk tests 3.4 or 4.4 per cent of fat?

FAT Just an occasional sample tested won't do, because a cow often varies considerably from day to day; neither will a test of all the mixed herd milk do, because you want particular, individual information. Samples taken on three days per month can be kept for testing once a month at the bare expense of a small bottle for each cow. Don't you want cows that give good rich milk?

Building up a herd by selection of cows on their records as economical and abundant producers means satisfaction at every turn. There should not be any complacency in keeping cows that are well fed yet give only a small weight of milk; far better turn that good feed to account through good cows that will make abundant milk at a moderate cost.

All records point towards the advantage of using a pure bred dairy sire, again one that is carefully selected, selected on his family merits. No scrub sire can be depended on to raise the yield of milk or fat per cow, but the good pure bred can easily be accountable for at least another 1,500 pounds of milk per cow. Even with a higher cost of feed per cow that pure bred influence will help to lower the cost of milk per hundred pounds.

In many districts where cow testing has been carried on for three **INCREASES** or four years are found dairymen who have proved to their entire satisfaction that it pays well.

Near St. Hyacinthe, Que., for example, are several farmers who are getting between 1,300 and 1,400 pounds of milk per cow more than three years ago, these are increases of 34 and 38 per cent. In one herd the average yield of fat per cow has increased from 145 to 206 pounds, or 42 per cent. The total clear profit above the cost of feed from the seven cows has increased from \$79.75 to \$200.00.

In another herd of seven cows, the increase in the profit has been eighty-two per cent.

In another large herd of 48 cows the average yield per cow is now 6,019 pounds of milk, the cost of feed has been decreased by \$8, because those cows that did not respond to careful feeding have been butchered, and the increase in profit per cow is \$26.32, or 59 per cent.

Many farmers have made a considerable improvement in the herd by the end of the second year, because the first year's totals show that some cows are not worth keeping on account of their poor yield, while indications are given that some others would do better if fed better.

Hence in the Listowel district for instance, are men who in two years have made increases from 4,500 to 5,230 pounds of milk, and from 7,070 to 8,294 pounds of milk per cow. One man with 11 cows has increased from 5,089 to 7,060 pounds of milk, or 1,971 pounds per cow. Another herd of 16 cows shows an increase of 2,700 pounds of milk per cow.

In a herd at Ways Mills, Que., the average has been increased from 137 to 182 pounds of fat per cow, or 32 per cent. At the same time, the cost of production of a pound of fat has been lowered because the poorest, that is, the most expensive cows, have been beefed.

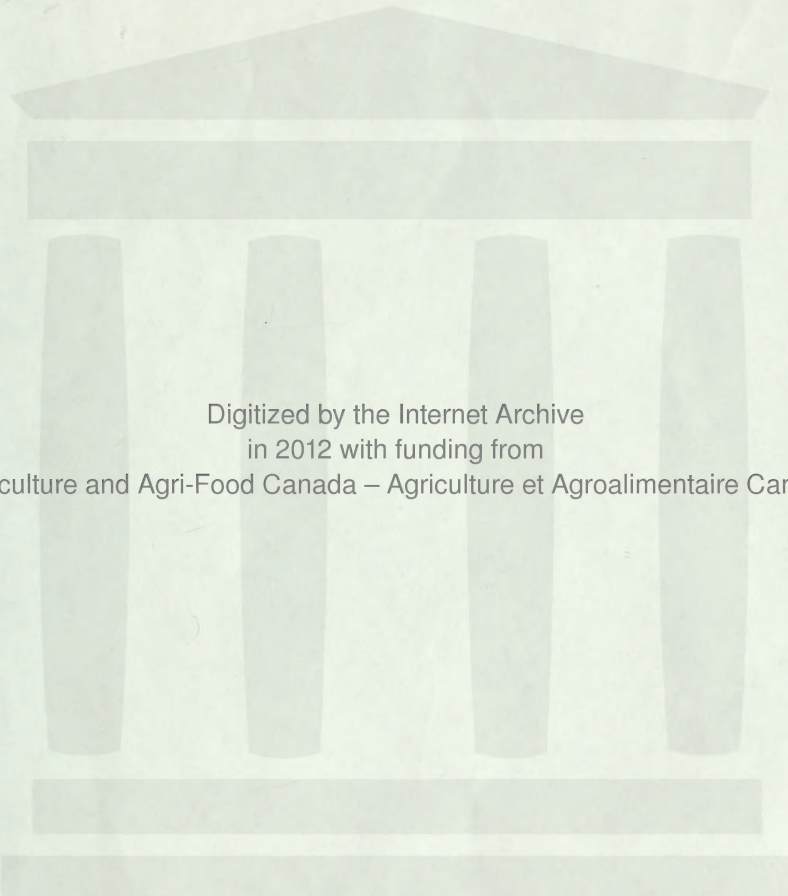
One herd near Cornwall, Ont., shows the first year an average of 3,700 pounds of milk per cow from a herd of 10 cows, increased the next year to 5,236 pounds from a herd of 11 cows, including four heifers, then the third year an average of 6,982 pounds testing 3.6 from the same 11, fed better and cared for better. This is an increase of 89 per cent.

Note that the first year's test in this case showed the farmer's judgment absolutely astray; two cows that were thought to be extra good were actually the poorest.

A quick increase at Wooler, Ont., shows the first year 8 cows averaging 5,327 pounds of milk, next year 10 cows with 7,640 pounds of milk, then the third year 13 cows with 8,307 pounds of milk.

The names and addresses of other men who have made good increases have already been published.

Record forms for milk and feed, and full information as to the assistance given by the government may be had on application to the Dairy and Cold Storage Commissioner, Ottawa.



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